

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIG. 1. This sheet, which includes FIGS. 1, 2A, 2B, 4 and 5, replaces the original sheet including FIGS. 1, 2A, 2B, 4 and 5. FIG. 1 is now labeled "Prior Art".

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 6-10, 16 and 17 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 16 are amended, claims 2, 4, 5 and 11-15 are cancelled and claim 17 is added.

Reconsideration based on the following remarks is respectfully requested.

I. The Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the drawings based on informalities. The drawing are amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

II. The Abstract Satisfies All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the Abstract based on informalities. The Abstract is amended to obviate this objection. Withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

III. The Claims Satisfy the Requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 11-14 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. Claims 11-14 are canceled and claim 16 is amended to obviate this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

IV. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over EP 1116479 ("the 479 Patent"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The 479 Patent does not disclose or even suggest an absorbent article including, *inter alia*, a core interposed between a cover layer and a barrier layer, wherein superabsorbent polymer is applied to the core or the barrier layer in a pattern, the core being selected from the group consisting of tissue and paper towel sheet, as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claim 16.

The 479 Patent discloses an absorbent pad including an absorbent unit made up of a non-woven fabric substrate and an absorbent zone formed by a plurality of highly absorbent layers (SAP) extending in the form of bands on the surface of the non-woven fabric substrate. However, the absorbent unit of the 479 Patent is not disclosed as including a core made of tissue or paper towel sheet, as required by the claimed invention.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 and 16 are in condition for allowance. The dependent claims are also in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite.

Prompt and favorable consideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: New York, New York
November 14, 2008

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